

Draft Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
October 29, 2024
7:00 pm
Pawlet Town Hall
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT
& Virtually via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
Bob Jones
Jessica Van Oort
Rich Hulett
Tom Collard

Others in Attendance:

PEG-TV
Kristin Powers
Sue LaPorte
John Sabotka
Frank Nelson
Harley Cudney
Erik Lubinsky
Tom Covino
Cori Rail
Lauren Herbert
Linda Lynton

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:02pm by Chairman, Mike Beecher, with the Pledge of Allegiance and a summary of the Selectboard's Rules of Procedure.
2. Introduction of those present, virtually and in person.
3. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items.
 - a. Additions:
 - Cameras in Pawlet & West Pawlet for weather tracking – Old/Unfinished Business
 - Town Truck Sale – Road Foreman's Report

- Executive Session – To discuss labor relations agreements with employees.
- b. Deletions:
 - Plowing Plan – Road Foreman’s Report
- 4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 15, 2024, with an edit to Bob Morlino’s pre-requested appearance summary.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
- 5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors: None.
- 6. Announcements: The Selectboard welcomes Tom Collard. Mr. Collard took his oath of office with Town Clerk Deb Hawkins, and will be serving on the Selectboard until Town Meeting 2025.
- 7. Reports:
 - A. Zoning Administrator’s (ZA) Report:
 - ZA Nancy Morlino shared a report with the Board:
 - 20 permits year-to-date in 2024.
 - Short Term Rental registration packets were sent to 15 property owners last week.
 - Nancy attended the VLCT Planning & Zoning seminar on 10/17. Of particular interest was the legislative update where they reviewed ACT 47 (S.100). Statute 13 Adoption of bylaws removes the “rural town” provision. Rural towns can no longer vote to adopt municipal bylaws by Australian ballot, unless forwarded by the Selectboard. The legislative voters retain the ability to petition for a popular vote following the legislative body action.
 - B. Planning Commission’s Report:
 - Jessica Van Oort provided a quick verbal report following the PPC meeting on 10/28.
 - Window Dressers group – mostly volunteer group who makes window insets to help and save an average of 8-10 gallons of fuel oil for heating. Conversations to continue about future community involvement opportunities.
 - C. Road Foreman’s Report:

- Highway Foreman, Damon Ferenc, provided a report to the Board:
 - The Highway Dept. has:
 - Continued to check roads and haul winter sand.
 - Graded: Herrick Brook, Towslee Hill, Waite Hill, Rupert Hill and Check Clark.
 - Sprayed Kelly Hill, Tadmer and Waite Hill with calcium chloride
 - Damon has coordinated with Haynes Tree Care to proceed with work associated with the Highway Safety Improvement Program grant.
- Information for the Town Truck has been provided to the Town Clerk, with hopes that it may be sold via online marketplace.
- John Sabotka addressed the Board, indicating that he is interested in stepping aside from his role on the RRTAC (Rutland Regional Transportation Advisory Committee). Mr. Sabotka continued to suggest that our Highway Foreman be Pawlet's representative on this committee, as it would provide a lot of beneficial information.

D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo: No report at this meeting.

F. Town Treasurer's Memo:

- Town Treasurer, Julie Mach, shared a memo with the Board, including: an overview of payroll, accounts payable, monies from the General Fund, Highway, Wastewater.
- Motion made to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #25027 for \$176,985.50 and Payroll Warrant #25026 for \$8,697.61.

Mover: Jessica Van Oort

2nd: Rich Hulett

Discussion: The Accounts Payable warrant includes the payoff of the new truck loan from Berkshire, moving us one step closer to having the lienholder be adjusted to the State of Vermont.

Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report: No report at this meeting.

H. Health Officer's Report: No report at this meeting.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF): No report at this meeting.

J. Facilities Report:

- Haynes Tree Care has been contacted regarding vegetation maintenance along the side of the Town Hall.
- Mr. Beecher made a note that once or twice per month the Highway Department should clean around the air conditioning units at the Town Hall to ensure the efficacy of the units.

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report: No report at this meeting.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Letter from the Constable – Mr. Beecher spoke to the letter submitted by Constable Covino. Clarification was made on the nature of the letter, requesting a special officer to support the constabulary efforts in Town. Mr. Beecher summarized guidance provided by the VLCT. No decisions made at this meeting.
- Cameras in Pawlet & West Pawlet for Weather Monitoring – The board continued previous discussions about the installation of cameras to help the Highway Dept. to better plan for road maintenance in the winter months.
- Jessica Van Oort spoke to the grant funding to be used towards the bench, picnic table and bike repair station – inquiring about anti-theft measures and installation plans.
- Mr. Beecher spoke to the WWTF, sharing that two proposals were received for a fully grant funded project to design an upgrade for the WWTF. Jill Marsano of VTUMS was excited about one of the proposals and determined to move forward with Hoyle, Tanner & Associates.

9. New Business: None.

10. Public comment:

- Frank Nelson shared that the second meeting of the Rutland Regional Plan is happening tomorrow, Wednesday 10/30/24, in person and virtually.

11. Motion made to enter executive session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees at 7:40pm.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

12. Motion made to exit executive session with no decisions made at 8:09pm.

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

13. Motion made to extend a job offer to a qualified applicant for the Highway Dept.

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

14. Motion made to adjourn at 8:10pm

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: Tom Collard
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved